

Energy Policy Act to Bring Changes

Stan Clark, Assistant Bureau Chief

In the last edition, we published a short summary of the UST portions of the 2005 Federal Energy Policy Act. Based on subsequent review and discussions of the new federal requirements, the Program anticipates that South Carolina law and regulation regarding USTs will need to be modified. Some of the changes may need to be made no later than the 2007 legislative session in order to meet the new federal requirements. Items that may need to be addressed in state legislation or regulation include:

- Prohibiting product delivery to tanks that are determined to be ineligible;
- Training for persons primarily responsible for UST operations and for persons who have daily responsibility for emergencies, including retraining for persons whose facilities have failed inspections;
- A required state compliance report for USTs owned or operated by

federal, state, or local government that are out of compliance;

- A required annual public record of regulated USTs to include the number, sources, and causes of releases, the number of equipment failures, and the record of compliance within the state; and
- Secondary containment for new or repaired UST systems within 1,000 feet of a water supply well OR financial responsibility requirements for manufacturers and installers of UST systems.

There are two other key provisions that our owners and operators need to be aware of (though the provisions probably will not require legislative or regulatory changes in S.C.). The EPA now has the clear authority to revoke approval of state funds as a financial responsibility mechanism if the state's fund is determined to be insolvent. Additionally, the EPA can cut federal funding to the state if state legislatures divert assurance fund dollars for other purposes. We will continue to keep you informed as things develop.

EDITORS. NOTE:

The UST Program will ask stakeholders and the public for ideas and comments on how to best approach and implement these requirements in South Carolina.

Recycling on the Go!

*Leslie Yasinsac,
UST Compliance Section*



The UST Program along with the Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling invites you to recycle. During our inspections, we've noticed how many empty plastic bottles and aluminum cans end up in the waste containers at UST facilities. If these bottles and cans went to a recycling center rather than a landfill, facility owners and operators could reduce waste disposal costs and "do the right thing" for the environment. Owners interested in having an on-site beverage container recycling bin that can be emptied at a local recycling center are urged to call the DHEC recycling hot line at (800) 768-7348. The folks at the hot line can also give you information on recycling programs for fluorescent bulbs, paper and cardboard, and used oil.

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Public Notice Postings

Tanitra S. Marshall, Compliance Inspector

Our inspectors are sometimes spotted hanging official-looking documents in convenience store windows or at public buildings located near a convenience store. These are public notice postings. Section 280.67 of **South Carolina's Underground Storage Tank Control Regulations** (R.61-92), requires the Program to notify the public of any Corrective Action Plans issued to bring a site into compliance with cleanup regulations. Our inspectors post notices in conspicuous places as close as possible to a facility.

Public notice postings include such basic information as the site name, address, and permit number as well as the proposed corrective action method. The notice offers the public seven to 30 days to comment on the planned activity. If people call the UST Program to express interest or concern, the Program will hold a public meeting to address those concerns. If a member of the public wants to review the entire Corrective Action Plan, they may do so by contacting DHEC's Freedom of Information Office. Interested persons

may also call the UST Program and speak to the project manager for the site. Contact numbers are also listed on the public notices.

For more information about public notices or the site cleanup process, please call the UST Program's Assessment and Corrective Action Division at (803) 896-6241.

Financial update

Laura Pace, Manager, Financial Section

The Financial Section of the UST Program consists of Laura Pace, Accounting Manager, and two accountants, Robertha Dorsey and Heather Price. Our primary job is to process payments from the SUPERB Account to tank owners, operators and contractors. Here are some ways tank owners and contractors can help the process work more smoothly and quickly.

1. Use the correct UST Program item number on invoices. We code invoices into the payment

database using the item number found on the left hand side of the Approved Cost Agreement Report. The project manager sends this report along with the letter than identifies the work to be completed to the UST owner and contractor. Missing or incorrect item numbers delay payment because the invoice item has to be researched and verified.

2. If the release has a deductible balance, include proof of payment such as copies of cancelled checks

or notarized statements of payment with the invoice. All deductibles must be met before the SUPERB fund can make any payment. If the Program does not have proof of payment of the deductible, the invoice will be returned.

3. Finally, ensure that both the contractor and UST owner/operator sign the invoice before it is submitted. An invoice that is not signed cannot be processed and will be returned.

BALANCE OF THE SUPERB ACCOUNT

July 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005

Beginning balance.....	\$18,293,119.61
Funds received	7,686,232.71
Funds paid out.....	6,634,343.78
Funds reserved for work being performed.....	18,705,288.90
Current balance of unreserved funds.....	639,719.64

UST Corrective Action Program Goes Online For Cost Savings

Chris Doll, PG, Northeastern SC Corrective Action Section

In a cost-cutting move, the Assessment and Corrective Action Division has begun using an Internet-based system to solicit bids for cleanup projects at UST sites. Starting in October 2005, the Program stopped mailing paper copies of solicitation packages to contractors

interested in providing a price quotation for the cleanups. Instead, the package is posted on a new Web page that was developed as a team effort between the UST Program and the DHEC Bureau of Business Management. The new process gets the information to contractors more quickly and saves an

estimated \$85 in copying, personnel, and postage costs for each package. The money saved is now available for assessment or corrective action activities at other UST sites. If you would like to view the new Web page, go to http://web05.dhec.sc.gov/ust_procurement/.

UST ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE

Singling out one facility in each of three categories gets tougher each edition. The Program passes along a big THANK YOU to everyone for continuing to improve compliance rates and for emphasizing regular operations and maintenance practices.

NOMINEES

Small Retail (fewer than 10 tanks)

Sue's Country Store – Trenton

Turners Grocery – Marion

Rembert Grocery - Rembert

Windmill Harbour – Hilton Head

Large Retail

Greenwood Petroleum 109 – Abbeville

Pantry 3065 – N. Myrtle Beach

Sav Way 23 – Mullins

Non-Retail

Edgefield County Fueling Facility – Edgefield

North Greenville Section Shed - Greenville

Ryder Truck Rental 0271A – Florence

UPS Myrtle Beach – Myrtle Beach

UPS Sumter – Sumter

WINNERS

Ryder Truck Rental 0271A – Florence – With a record of compliance going back to their first inspection in 1997, this facility just keeps getting it right. Thank you for protecting the environment.

Sue's Country Store – Trenton – Operated by Sue Herring. This operator also has a history of doing it right. She is very organized and keeps the facility running smoothly. Thank you, Ms. Herring, for paying attention to routine operations and maintenance activities.

Sav Way 23 – Mullins – Rainwater Gas and Oil Co., Inc. This company has aggressively pursued compliance and best management practices over the years. The record at this facility speaks for itself...solid operating and maintenance practices that protect and promote the environment.



South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control

Tank Information — Online

Now you can research tank information from the convenience of your home or workplace. Visit our Web site at <http://www.scdhec.gov/eqc/ust> and check out our new search engine just for tanks.

To begin:

1. Go to the Web site above and click on the "Registry of Underground Storage Tanks" (look for the flashing "new" sign located in the middle of the page just under the pictures).
2. Fill in your choice of site number, owner, address or product (whatever information you have) and hit the search button.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the "South Carolina Underground Storage Tank Registry" page. The page header includes "Environmental Quality Control" and "S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control". The main title is "South Carolina Underground Storage Tank Registry". Below the title is a "Search for a Facility:" section with input fields for "Site Number:", "Facility Name:", "Owner:", "County:" (with a dropdown arrow), "Address:", "City:", "Product: *" (with a dropdown arrow), and "Zip:". There is a checkbox labeled "Only show sites with active tanks" and a "Search" button. A note below the search fields states: "*To list all E85 sites, select 'High-Ethanol Gasoline'". At the bottom, there is a footer with "SC DHEC" and "South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control".

3. All sites that fit the chosen criteria will be listed.
4. Hit the "select" button by the site that you wish to view.
5. The information will be displayed in boxes.
6. The first box shown will have the owner and facility information.
7. The next box will show confirmed release information.
 - Release information includes:
 - Number of confirmed releases
 - Release date
 - Completion date
 - SCRBCA class code
8. The next boxes will show any tank information (each tank has its own box).
 - Tank information includes:
 - Product in each tank
 - Capacity of tank
 - Status of tank
 - Construction of tank and piping
 - Method of leak detection
 - Most recent test dates

Don't panic if the information on the Web site does not match your records. The information on this Web site is updated quarterly. To report new information, contact Denise Place at placedm@dhec.sc.gov or call 803-896-6840.

Receptor Surveys Part 2: What to Include in a Receptor Survey

Susan Block, Assessment and Corrective Action Division

As noted in the previous edition of UST News, a comprehensive receptor survey is a critical component in a complete release assessment. Receptors include water supply wells, streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, wetlands, utility trenches or vaults, and basements—anything that liquid, vapor, or soil contamination could impact.

A receptor survey, done properly, will include a walking survey of the area along with study of topographic maps, available databases (such as tax maps,

zoning regulations and city public works maps), and discussions with neighboring property owners. Although public water utilities may serve a given area, there may still be private water supply wells in the same service area. Since the owner often knows the area best, tank owners should review the receptor survey for accuracy before sending it to the UST Program.

A thorough receptor survey report will include the distance and direction from the release to the receptor. For example,

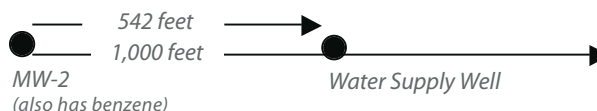
“A creek is located 500 feet northeast of the release.” The receptor survey should also extend for at least 1,000 feet from the most distant detection point of the release, not just 1,000 feet from the source of the release.

A water supply well is located 1,375 feet from MW-1 (the source area well). If the receptor survey covers a 1000-foot radius from MW-1, the water supply well will not be identified as a potential receptor.



However, if benzene was also detected in a down gradient well, MW-2, and the water supply well is only 542 feet from MW-2, the water supply well is a potential receptor.

●
MW-1
(has benzene)



The receptor survey report should also include the address, phone number, and property owner information for tax map parcels that contain the identified water supply wells, basements, ponds, and creeks. If the information is

available, the Program also needs to know if the well is used for drinking water or irrigation.

Receptors that are identified should be properly located on site maps and

screened or sampled to determine if impact has occurred. If contamination is detected, the contractor should contact the UST project manager within 48 hours at (803) 896-6241.

Aggressive Fluid Vapor Recovery (AFVR)

Maia Milenkova, Assessment and Corrective Action Division

Aggressive Fluid Vapor Recovery (AFVR) is a process for treating contaminated soil and groundwater. AFVR simultaneously removes underground vapors, free-phase product, and contaminated groundwater. AFVR is simple, mobile, and particularly good for removing free-floating petroleum hydrocarbons (gasoline and diesel). The process uses high vacuum and high flow rates to remove contaminants from as many as eight recovery wells at one time. The contaminants are pulled through a 1.0 to 1.5 inch diameter PVC “stinger” (drop tube) that is inserted into the well(s). The stingers are attached to a high-pressure hose and manifolded

into a mobile unit (vacuum truck). Groundwater that is captured is sent to a treatment facility and vapors are captured and treated on site. The air emissions from the recovery activity are measured during the entire AFVR event to verify compliance with DHEC Air Pollution Control Regulations.

AFVR can remove contaminated groundwater from as deep as 150 feet. The process is also useful in karsts and/or fractured bedrock settings. A typical AFVR event lasts eight hours and can remove in excess of 1,000 gallons of petroleum (gasoline or diesel). Since the process also introduces oxygen into

the contamination area, an important secondary value is that aerobic biodegradation is also enhanced.

AFVR is an important tool, particularly for quickly removing high concentrations of contamination (typically near or at the release point). In some instances, smaller free product plumes have been cleaned up with a single AFVR event. It can also be quite useful where rapid cleanup is necessary (e.g. off-site plume migration, emergency response, etc.) and can be used at any time during the cleanup process.

The Basics Of Product Compatibility

Alison Hathcock, Permitting Office

With the arrival of alternative fuels such as E85 and biodiesel, the issue of compatibility between these new fuels and typical UST system equipment has surfaced. E85 and other alternative fuels may not be compatible with many components of existing UST systems. Additionally, new UST system equipment is being produced that is not compatible with these alternative fuels. South Carolina UST Control Regulations, R.61-92, Subpart C, Section 280.32 says, "Owners and Operators must use an UST system made of or lined with materials that are compatible with the substance stored in the UST system". Owners who are installing a new system or converting an existing system to E85 or another alternative fuel should ensure the compatibility of system components that come in contact with the fuel. The following is a partial list of the equipment

that should be checked for compatibility with alternative fuels: Dispenser Valves and Meters, Nozzles and Hoses, Shear Valves, Piping Dope and Glue, Adaptors, Flex Connectors, Tanks and Piping, Tank and Pipe Fittings and Connectors, Fill and Vapor Caps, Automatic Tank Gauge Probes and Sensors.

Owners must obtain a statement of compatibility from the equipment manufacturer that specifically addresses the fuel to be stored and submit it to the Program for both new UST systems that will store alternative fuel or when converting an existing fuel system to store alternative fuel. Please note that if the fuel system has incompatible equipment and a release occurs, your access to the state cleanup fund could be at risk. If you have system compatibility questions regarding E85 or other alternative fuels, please contact the Program at (803) 896-7957.



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